

News Release

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Contact:

Utah State Hospital
Volunteer Coordinator
Shawna Petersor
801-344-4254

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“The Forgotten Patient Christmas Project”

Provo – The holidays can be a difficult and trying time for those struggling with a debilitating mental illness, especially if they lack family support. For the past 40 years the Utah State Hospital has operated “The Forgotten Patient Christmas Project.” The project is designed to bring joy and gifts to those patients that have literally been “forgotten” by their own families. For these patients, the thought that someone would care enough to give a gift or write a note to them reminds them that they are remembered and they do matter.

So far this year, 185 of the 285 “forgotten” patients have been sponsored. Unfortunately, 100 patients are still in need of a sponsor. Anyone interested in sponsoring a patient or making a cash donation may do so by contacting the Utah State Hospital Volunteer Coordinator, Shawna Peterson, 801-344-4254. Sponsors will be given a list of patient gift suggestions, which will also include clothing sizes and hobbies. Sponsors are encouraged to wrap each item and include a note letting the patient know who provided Christmas for them. The patients will receive the gifts in their units on Christmas Eve and will open them Christmas morning.

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